

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method to inactivate a gene introduced into a plant genome, said method comprising:

transforming said organism with a transfer cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding said gene; and introducing into said plant at least one chimeric RNA-DNA oligonucleotide molecule capable of recognizing and implementing a nucleotide conversion in said transfer cassette such that an interruption in the normal expression of said gene is created, thereby rendering said gene inoperable.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide conversion is in the promoter.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said nucleotide conversion is in the coding region.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said gene is a marker gene.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said gene is a herbicide resistance gene.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the chimeric oligonucleotide introduces a frameshift in the normal reading frame of the gene.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the chimeric oligonucleotide introduces a premature stop codon in the normal reading frame of the gene.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein the chimeric oligonucleotide introduces a modification in a region of the promoter critical for transcription of the operably linked gene coding region.